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PTQ4793

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B2

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	A-00	CA-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/010W
				-----FC8196 230144Z /34			

O 222342Z OCT 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8194
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003290

NSC FOR LLORENS
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/22/2012
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ASEC, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: MILITARY OFFICERS CALL FOR "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" TO
FORCE CHAVEZ'S RESIGNATION

CLASSIFIED BY: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES FREDERICK B. COOK. REASONS 1.5 (B)
AND (D)

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SUMMARY

1. (U) GENERAL ENRIQUE MEDINA AND THIRTEEN SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS PUBLICLY DECLARED THEMSELVES IN "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" AGAINST THE GOV DURING A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 22. THE OFFICERS, MANY OF WHOM WERE INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF APRIL 11-14, CRITICIZED CHAVEZ FOR UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS, CORRUPTION, AND FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE THOROUGHLY THE DEATHS IN APRIL. THEY CITED ARTICLE 350 AND 333 OF THE CONSTITUTION AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR ACTIONS. VICE PRESIDENT RANGEL IMMEDIATELY WROTE OFF THE OFFICERS AS FAILED COUPLISTS LEFT OVER FROM APRIL, ASSERTED THAT THE GOV CONTINUED TO OPERATE NORMALLY, AND SAID THE OFFICERS SHOULD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2005 200400109

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BE CHARGED AND TRIED BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

B2

END SUMMARY.

2. (U) GENERAL ENRIQUE MEDINA GOMEZ, SURROUNDED BY THIRTEEN SENIOR OFFICERS REPRESENTING ALL SERVICE BRANCHES, READ A STATEMENT IN A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 22, DECLARING THE OFFICERS IN "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE." CRITICIZING CHAVEZ FOR UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS, CORRUPTION AND AN INADEQUATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATHS IN APRIL, MEDINA CALLED ON ALL RANKS OF THE ARMED FORCES (FAN), AS WELL AS VENEZUELAN CIVILIANS, TO JOIN IN DEMANDING PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S RESIGNATION WHILE REJECTING EITHER A COUP AGAINST THE GOV OR AN AUTO-COUP BY CHAVEZ. HE CITED ARTICLES 350 AND 333 OF THE CONSTITUTION AS JUSTIFICATION. MEDINA CALLED FOR SUPPORTERS TO GATHER IMMEDIATELY AT THE PLAZA FRANCIA IN CARACAS. AS OF 2000 LOCAL, SOME 1000 CIVILIANS HAD GATHERED. NOTABLY ABSENT FROM THE GROUP WERE OFFICERS SUCH AS VICE ADMIRAL ALVARO

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MARTIN FOSSA, GENERAL EFRAIN VASCO VELASQUEZ, AND GENERAL MANUEL ROSENDO.

3. (U) VICE PRESIDENT RANGEL, STATING THAT "THIS PRONOUNCEMENT DOES NOT SIGNIFY ANYTHING," TOLD CNN THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO FUNCTION NORMALLY AND THAT ALL GOVERNORS AND MAYORS HAD BEEN CONTACTED; NONE HAD REPORTED ANY PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT. RANGEL CRITICIZED THE OFFICERS AS "THE SAME COUPISTS OF APRIL 11," AND CALLED FOR CHARGES TO BE FILED AGAINST THEM "BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES." WILLIAM LARA, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE MESSAGE HAD "NO ECHO" WITHIN THE FAN. FIFTH REPUBLIC MOVEMENT (MVR) DEPUTY CILIA FLORES ACCUSED THE OFFICERS OF ATTEMPTING A REPEAT OF APRIL 11, AND CALLED FOR THE OFFICERS TO BE CHARGED AND TRIED AS APPROPRIATE.

B1

5. (U) THE GOV AND THE NEWS MEDIA KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PLACE. IT RAN IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE THE FOURTEEN OFFICERS PROCEEDED TO PLAZA FRANCIA FOR THEIR RALLY. MEDIA CONTACTS TOLD ACTING PAO THAT THEY HAD

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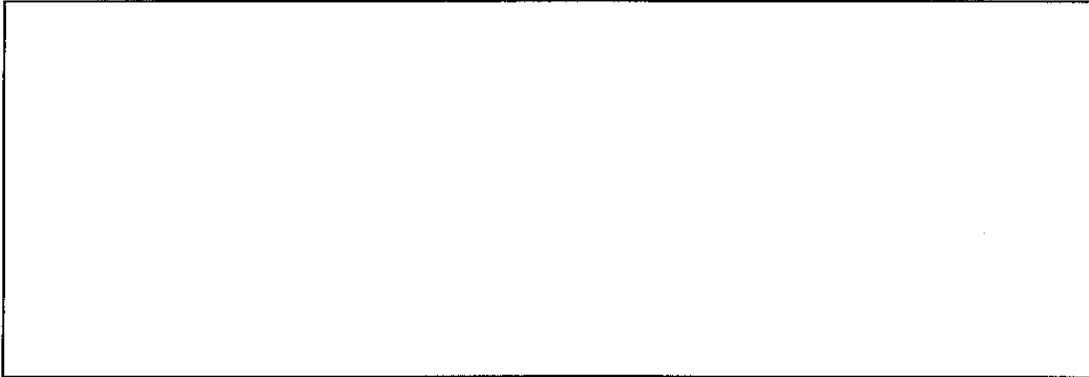
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BEEN THREATENDED WITH CLOSING SHOULD THEY RUN THE PRESS
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CONFERENCE. ALL MEDIA REMAIN ON THE AIR NONETHELESS,
INCLUDING RETRANSMISSION OF THE CNN COVERAGE. GOVERNMENT
TELEVISION HAS BEEN RUNNING FOOTAGE OF THE APRIL 11-14
EVENTS.



B2



B1

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INFO	LOG-00	A-00	CA-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
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